



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
HEARTLAND REGION -- ILLINOIS FIELD OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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USDA TO SURVEY PRODUCERS ABOUT ON-FARM LABOR

Springfield, IL – During the second half of April, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct its semi-annual Agricultural Labor Survey. The survey will collect information about hired labor from more than 380 Illinois farmers and ranchers.

“The beginning of the growing season is usually the perfect time to look at farm labor,” said Mark Schleusener, Director of the NASS Illinois Field Office. “The data that farm operators provide through NASS’s Agricultural Labor Survey will allow Illinois and federal policy-makers to establish labor policies based on accurate information and help ensure farmers can get sufficient hired labor for their operations.”

Hired Workers and Wage Rates – United States

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

Farm employment	July 7-13, 2013	October 6-12, 2013	January 12-18, 2014	April 6-12, 2014	July 6-12, 2014	October 12-18, 2014
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Hired workers						
150 days or more	634	619	459	558	583	561
149 days or less	272	252	81	132	255	221
Total	906	871	540	690	838	782
	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)
Hours worked by hired workers	40.9	41.7	38.9	40.1	40.5	41.3
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Wage rate ¹						
Field and livestock combined	10.99	11.27	11.20	11.12	11.33	11.46
Field	11.02	11.38	11.10	11.02	11.36	11.52
Livestock	10.88	10.93	11.36	11.35	11.26	11.29
All hired workers	11.68	11.96	12.23	12.01	11.96	12.12

¹ Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

USDA and the Department of Labor will use statistics gathered in the Agricultural Labor Survey to help establish minimum wage rates for agricultural workers, administer farm labor recruitment and placement service programs, and assist legislators in determining labor policies.

In the survey, NASS asks participants to answer a variety of questions about hired farm labor on their operations, including total number of hired farm workers, the average hours worked, and wage rates paid for the weeks of January 11-17 and April 12-18. For their convenience, survey participants have the option to respond online.

“Due to seasonal variation and despite collecting farm labor data twice a year, we publish data on a quarterly basis,” said Schleusener. “This approach helps us ensure that anyone using our data can perform more accurate analyses.”

NASS will compile, analyze and publish survey results in the *Farm Labor* report, to be released on May 21. All information NASS collects in this survey will be kept strictly confidential, as required by federal law. This and all other NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Heartland Regional Field Office at (800) 551-1014.

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